(c) and (d) the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has suggested pathways for development of a total hydrogen energy system in the country that includes hydrogen production, its storage, transport and delivery, applications, hydrogen safety, codes and standards; public awareness and capacity building. The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has suggested implementation of specific projects with public-private partnership up to 2020. Major private players like Tatas, Mahindras are part of the Hydrogen Energy Board.

(e) Fuel cells are electro-chemical devices, which generate electricity. Fuel cells consume hydrogen for electricity generation rather than storing hydrogen and are presently very expensive as compared to existing conventional energy devices. The Ministry of New and Renewabal Energy has been supporting research and development project for production of hydrogen by splitting of water using renewable energy and also from bio-wastes such as distillery effluents, bagasse, etc.

Shortage of LPG in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

660. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is tremendous shortage of LPG in the tribal district of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand for the last several months;

(b) if so, how Government propose to rectify the situation; and

(c) whether Government are going to release more gas connections to the tribals in the tribal dominated States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and if so, the plan for the next six months indicating how many gas connections to be released in each of the States, with the district-wise figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

(c) New connections are available across the counter for the genuine domestic customers in the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and there is no waiting list for release of new connections. OMCs have reported that the total enrolment for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the period October, 2006 to March, 2007 under the State Government sponsored Schemes is expected to be 3,200 and 53,587 in the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand respectively.

Increase in gas price by GAIL

661. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has increased the price of gas supplied to various gas-based plants in the State of Andhra Pradesh from US$3.3 MMBTU to US $ 4.5 MMBTU;

(b) if so, the reasons for increasing the price of gas unilaterally;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the stakeholders and APTRANSOCO;

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the consultations; and

(e) the details of plants that are opposing the price increase by GAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The negotiations for revised price of gas from Ravva Satellite fields are being held with the Ravva JV consortium; the price has yet to be finalized.

(c) All the 15 customers drawing Ravva Satellite Gas have been informed about the likely increase in the price and their acceptance of the likely revised price has been sought. APTRANSCO has also been informed about the likely revision in the price.

(d) Of the 15 customers, 10 customers have given their consent for the revised price of around $ 4.5/MMBTU.

(e) The following customers have not agreed to the gas price increase being demanded by the Ravva JV consortium: 1) Spectrum, 2) GVK Industries,3) APGPCL, 4) Lanco Kondapalli, 5) Delta Paper.